

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OTRA AR

SUBJECT: VISITS BY U.S. CITIZENS TO ARGENTINA

1. DEPARTMENT ADVISED BY CHAPMAN COLLEGE OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA THAT THE "SS UNIVERSE CAMPUS", AN OCEAN LINER CONVERTED INTO A "FLOATING UNIVERSITY" IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES ON OCTOBER 4. THE VESSEL CARRIES ABOUT 650 AMERICAN CITIZENS, OF WHOM 553 ARE STUDENTS AND ABOUT 65 FACULTY AND ACADEMIC STAFF. DR. JOHN M. ELMENDORF IS IN CHARGE. THE VESSEL PLANS TO REMAIN DOCKED IN BUENOS AIRES UNTIL OCTOBER 10. VESSEL'S VISITS NORMALLY HEAVILY PUBLICIZED.

2. COLLEGE AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED BY PRESS REPORTS REGARDING SECURITY SITUATION IN BUENOS AIRES AND SEEK DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER SUCH A VISIT IS TOO RISKY FOR VESSEL AND TRAVELERS IN VIEW CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS.

3. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN GENERAL WITH COLLEGE BUT BEFORE MAKING ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WE REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ASAP.

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4. DEPARTMENT RECEIVING NUMEROUS INQUIRIES BY CONCERNED

US CITIZENS AS TO SAFETY OF TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA AT THIS
TIME IN VIEW OF ALMOST DAILY ALARMIST PRESS REPORTS
PUBLISHED HERE. AS EXAMPLE RECENT NOVITSKI ARTICLES IN
WASHINGTON POST STATED THAT INNOCENT PASSERSBY WERE
OFTEN VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ACTIONS. OUR RESPONSE TO
DATE HAS BEEN TO FURNISH AS COMPLETE INFORMATION TO
CALLERS AS POSSIBLE BUT ADVISE THEM THAT DECISION AS TO
WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD GO WAS ONE THEY MUST MAKE.
AS WE EXPECT INQUIRIES FROM CONCERNED CITIZENS TO INCREASE,
WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AS TO HOW DEPARTMENT
SHOULD REPLY. KISSINGER

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